



**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
USDA Food and Nutrition Service  
Benefit Redemption Division  
2011 Annual Report**



Putting Healthy Food  
Within Reach

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is directly responsible for the authorization, management and oversight of retailers who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

In fiscal year 2011, this was accomplished in the SNAP Benefit Redemption Division (BRD) and in seven Regional Operations and Support Field organizations.

SNAP BRD oversees national policy, manages national systems and contracts, manages Agency undercover investigations, and handles critical due process activities associated with retailer sanctions.

Field Operations staff perform front-end authorization, reauthorization (re-assessment of the eligibility of participating stores and businesses), maintenance and administration related to retailer participation, administrative sanction activities, and coordinate with compliance partners [i.e. USDA Office of the Inspector General (OIG), State Law Enforcement Bureaus (SLEBs), Women Infants and Children Program (WIC)].

### **The Year In Review**

In fiscal year 2011, over \$71 billion in client benefits were redeemed in the over 231,000 participating stores, farmers' markets, direct marketing farmers, homeless meal providers, treatment centers, group homes, and others authorized to accept SNAP.

Over the past five fiscal years, the number of authorized firms has increased by 40%; information regarding trends in overall retailer participation can be found on page 3.

Supermarkets and superstores made up just 16% of the over 231,000 firms authorized in fiscal year 2011 but continue to redeem the majority of benefits. The percentage of benefits redeemed by each of the 24 firm types can be found on page 5.

A State-by-State breakdown of the amount of benefits and percentage of authorized firms is found on pages 6-7.

### **Administrative Actions:**

Over 90,000 administrative actions, from authorization to withdrawal, took place in fiscal year 2011. These are detailed on page 8.

**Farmers' Markets:**

As one of many initiatives focused on improving access to healthy foods, USDA has in its strategic plan a goal of increasing farmers' market participation in SNAP by at least 200 markets each year. Page 9 reflects the continual steady growth in the number of participating farmers' markets and direct marketing farmers.

**Maintaining Program Integrity:**

The retailer management team continues actively working on behalf of American taxpayers to protect the Federal investment in SNAP. Combating abuse and misuse of SNAP benefits is a priority. The sale/purchase of SNAP benefits for cash is called trafficking. This illegal activity is punishable by administrative action, civil and/or criminal prosecution.

Over the last 15 years, FNS aggressively implemented a number of measures to reduce the prevalence of trafficking in SNAP. As a result, the trafficking rate has moved from 4 percent down to its current level of 1 percent. The latest FNS trafficking study details the trafficking rate for the period 2006 through 2008, and is available on-line at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/ora/MENU/Published/snap/ProgramIntegrity.htm>. The next study, covering the period 2009-2011, will be published in 2013.

FNS uses a fraud detection system to monitor electronic transaction activity at the store level and identify suspicious retail grocers for further analysis and investigation. FNS has been updating the system to capitalize on new, more advanced technology, and make use of innovative analytical tools to strengthen our fraud detection capabilities. This system is instrumental to our success in identifying violators and decreasing trafficking, as it allows FNS to detect and prosecute bad actors who defraud the Program.

In fiscal year 2011, field compliance analysts across the country reviewed the transactions of over 15,000 stores identified by the system. SNAP investigators worked undercover in close to 5,000 stores.

In the fiscal year tally, 1,219 stores were sanctioned for trafficking, and another 762 retailers were sanctioned for lesser violations, such as the sale of ineligible products.

Retailers who are sanctioned for SNAP violations and also participate in the WIC Program are reciprocally disqualified from the WIC Program, and retailers who are sanctioned for WIC violations are subject to disqualification from SNAP.

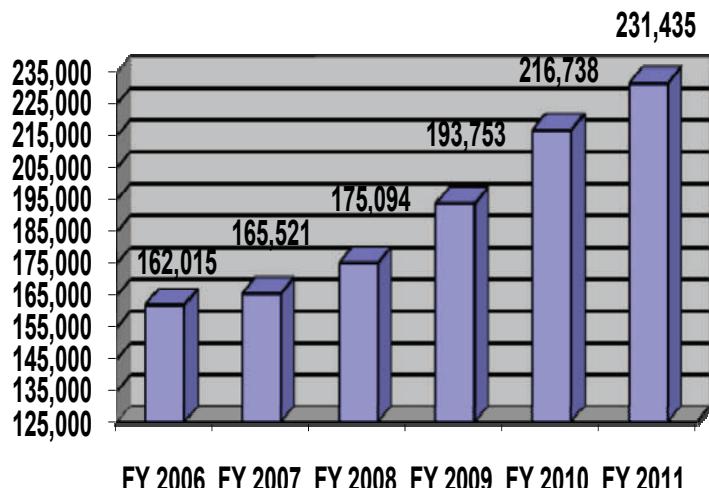
FNS relies on its investigative partners, including the USDA OIG and SLEBs, to complement FNS investigative resources. OIG is the primary investigative arm for FNS Programs; it pursues criminal prosecution of violating retailers. SLEBs can also bring criminal cases against violators based on State and local statutes.

Fiscal year 2011 compliance activities, from investigation, to adjudication, and final sanction, can be found detailed on pages 9 through 15.

More information about FNS efforts to combat fraud and abuse is available and can be found on-line at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/fraud.htm>. For more information about SNAP in general, please visit our website at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap>.

## FISCAL YEAR 2011 AT A GLANCE

### Number of Authorized Firms



- As of September 30, 2011, 231,435 firms were authorized to participate in SNAP.
- Over the past five fiscal years, the number of authorized firms has increased by 40%.
- In fiscal year 2011, supermarkets and superstores redeemed 83% of all SNAP benefits.

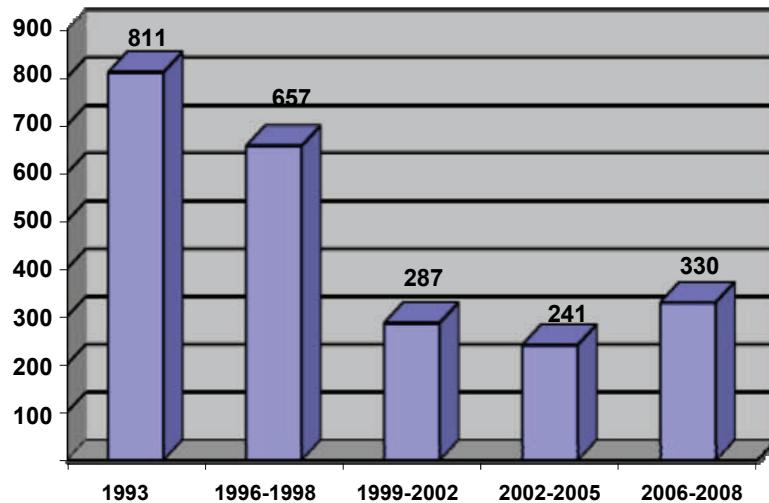
### Retailer Administration Activities

FNS performed the following retailer administration activities in fiscal year 2011:

- Approved or reinstated SNAP participation for 35,586 store locations.
- Confirmed the continued eligibility of 36,820 firms through reauthorization.
- Conducted 23,763 store visits.
- Withdrawn 19,085 firms due to voluntary request, non-redemption, or failure to meet eligibility requirements.

## Retailer Compliance Activities

**Amount of SNAP Benefits Trafficked  
(Annualized, Dollars in Millions)**



Source data: 01/26/12 STARS report.

FNS performed the following retailer compliance activities in fiscal year 2011:

- Initiated compliance actions on 2,935 authorized firms found in violation of program regulations; consisting of 1,981 sanction actions, 157 transfer of ownership monetary penalties, 3 unauthorized acceptance fines, and issuance of 794 warning letters.
- Completed 4,876 undercover investigations of authorized retail grocers to determine compliance with program regulations. Identified positive violations in 1,898 investigations, or 39% of the total completed.
- Completed 1,011 administrative reviews of FNS administrative actions appealed by aggrieved firms. FNS sustained 89% of all appeals, reversed or modified 3%, and found that 8% were moot.\*
- Trafficking, the exchange of SNAP benefits for cash, has decreased significantly since the FNS Office of Research Analysis conducted the first estimate of the amount of benefits trafficked in 1993.
- The most recent estimate, for the period 2006-2008, determined that trafficking diverted roughly one cent of each benefit dollar.\*\*

\* Of the 76 cases closed as moot, 6 were withdrawn by appellants, 25 were withdrawn by FNS, 40 were closed as a result of appellants' failure to provide a sufficient basis for review, and 5 were withdrawn for unspecified reasons.

\*\*From March 2011 FNS Report—"The Extent of Trafficking in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: 2006-2008."

## Redemptions by Firm Type

Firms are classified by type. There are currently 24 firm types. Classifications are differentiated by sales volume, ratio of food sales to total sales, or whether firms specialize in one staple food group. They are further grouped based upon those that provide traditional retailer services and those that provide meal services. Combined, supermarkets and super stores continue to redeem 83 percent of all SNAP benefits while making up only 16 percent of the total number of authorized firms.

**Redemptions by Region and Firm Type**

Firm Types	MARO	MWRO	MPRO	NERO	SERO	SWRO	WRO	Total Authorized	Percent Totals	Redemption Amounts	Percent Totals
Bakery Specialty	223	763	504	301	572	583	1,292	4,238	1.83%	\$228,792,955	0.32%
Combination Grocery/Other	6,419	9,858	3,697	5,242	15,561	7,707	6,721	55,205	23.85%	\$3,627,198,917	5.06%
Convenience Store	9,841	13,708	5,175	8,832	22,114	11,976	16,211	87,857	37.96%	\$3,281,127,952	4.58%
Delivery Route	118	236	135	94	241	133	120	1,077	0.47%	\$161,912,632	0.23%
Farmers' Market	250	392	398	480	430	112	383	2,445	1.06%	\$11,725,316	0.02%
Fruits/Veg. Specialty	296	205	23	237	629	120	349	1,859	0.80%	\$131,886,672	0.18%
Large Grocery Store	421	730	408	427	561	366	644	3,557	1.54%	\$1,151,543,423	1.61%
Meat/Poultry Specialty	513	791	345	520	766	439	698	4,072	1.76%	\$566,723,600	0.79%
Medium Grocery Store	1,441	1,820	767	2,451	1,478	962	2,148	11,067	4.78%	\$1,526,651,026	2.13%
Military Commissary	28	8	18	12	49	25	50	190	0.08%	\$87,781,298	0.12%
Non-Profit Food Buying Co-op	25	121	6	103	26	21	52	354	0.15%	\$37,818,763	0.05%
Seafood Specialty	404	110	15	365	752	365	173	2,184	0.94%	\$227,325,718	0.32%
Small Grocery Store	3,600	1,631	722	5,467	2,153	1,009	1,849	16,431	7.10%	\$1,248,205,713	1.74%
Super Store	2,436	3,813	2,058	1,986	2,365	2,334	2,945	17,937	7.75%	\$34,628,367,453	48.35%
Supermarket	2,040	2,753	717	1,869	5,835	1,381	4,101	18,696	8.08%	\$24,501,025,761	34.21%
Wholesaler	9	2	2		4	2	2	21	0.01%	\$7,111,821	0.01%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>28,064</b>	<b>36,941</b>	<b>14,990</b>	<b>28,386</b>	<b>53,536</b>	<b>27,535</b>	<b>37,738</b>	<b>227,190</b>	<b>98.17%</b>	<b>\$71,425,199,020</b>	<b>99.74%</b>
Communal Dining Facility	32	134	107	63	40	39	30	445	0.19%	\$4,357,434	0.01%
Drug Alcohol Treatment Program	81	102	79	227	154	63	320	1,026	0.44%	\$56,740,175	0.08%
Group Living Arrangement	49	70	38	332	94	3	45	631	0.27%	\$77,647,655	0.11%
Homeless Meal Provider	51	28	19	26	18	11	50	203	0.09%	\$7,102,097	0.01%
Meal Delivery Service	29	75	48	32	19	40	17	260	0.11%	\$614,017	0.00%
Private Restaurant/Meal Delivery		103		5	16		1,408	1,532	0.66%	\$36,026,088	0.05%
Senior Citizens' Center/Residential Bldg.	1	97	4	9	2		1	114	0.05%	\$5,955,478	0.01%
Shelter for Battered Women and Children	1	2		12	1	1	17	34	0.01%	\$619,867	0.00%
<b>Meal Services Subtotal</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>1,888</b>	<b>4,245</b>	<b>1.83%</b>	<b>\$189,062,810</b>	<b>0.26%</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28,308</b>	<b>37,552</b>	<b>15,285</b>	<b>29,092</b>	<b>53,880</b>	<b>27,692</b>	<b>39,626</b>	<b>231,435</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$71,614,261,830</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Source: STARS Management Activity Report 12/19/11

## Retailer Redemptions

The following pages show the number of authorized firms and redemption amounts broken out by State agency. California, New York and Texas continue to have the highest number of firms and redemptions.



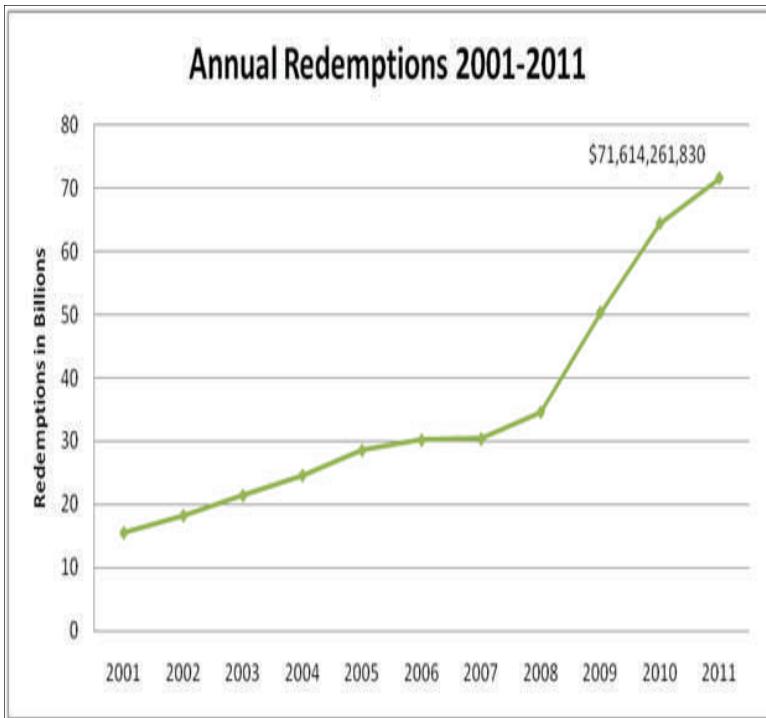
### Key Fact:

We continue to see an increase in the number of overall firms participating in SNAP. In fiscal year 2011, there was a 7 percent increase over the prior fiscal year.

## Retailer Redemption Data

Region	State Agency	Authorized	Redemption	Percent of Authorized	Percent of Redemption
		Firms	Amount	Firms	Amount
<b>MARO</b>	Delaware	734	\$213,387,277	0.32%	0.30%
	District of Columbia	446	\$126,543,889	0.19%	0.18%
	Maryland	3,451	\$1,125,291,417	1.49%	1.57%
	New Jersey	5,903	\$1,249,277,100	2.55%	1.74%
	Pennsylvania	9,875	\$2,633,394,165	4.27%	3.68%
	Virginia	5,622	\$1,365,460,810	2.43%	1.91%
	Virgin Islands	113	\$47,878,800	0.05%	0.07%
	West Virginia	2,164	\$474,062,456	0.94%	0.66%
<b>Regional Totals</b>		28,308	\$7,235,295,914	12.23%	10.10%
<b>MWRO</b>	Illinois	8,778	\$2,972,201,446	3.79%	4.15%
	Indiana	4,456	\$1,417,258,069	1.93%	1.98%
	Michigan	9,541	\$3,099,510,874	4.12%	4.33%
	Minnesota	3,001	\$659,409,331	1.30%	0.92%
	Ohio	8,368	\$2,950,295,297	3.62%	4.12%
	Wisconsin	3,408	\$1,108,453,247	1.47%	1.55%
	<b>Regional Totals</b>	37,552	\$12,207,128,264	16.23%	17.05%
<b>MPRO</b>	Colorado	2,406	\$766,686,571	1.04%	1.07%
	Iowa	2,608	\$569,413,956	1.13%	0.80%
	Kansas	1,677	\$453,024,923	0.72%	0.63%
	Missouri	4,226	\$1,440,835,850	1.83%	2.01%
	Montana	731	\$191,826,294	0.32%	0.27%
	Nebraska	978	\$264,710,403	0.42%	0.37%
	North Dakota	481	\$101,247,908	0.21%	0.14%
	South Dakota	685	\$155,197,473	0.30%	0.22%
	Utah	1,219	\$395,232,771	0.53%	0.55%
	Wyoming	274	\$53,542,415	0.12%	0.07%
<b>Regional Totals</b>		15,285	\$4,391,718,563	6.60%	6.13%

## Retailer Redemption Data



**Key Fact:**  
In fiscal year 2011, SNAP redemptions increased 11% from the previous fiscal year and 361% over the past 10 years.

Region	State Agency	Authorized Firms	Redemption Amount	Percent of Authorized Firms	Percent of Redemption Amount
<b>NERO</b>	Connecticut	2,249	\$635,928,996	0.97%	0.89%
	Maine	4,705	\$1,283,129,725	2.03%	1.79%
	Massachusetts	1,516	\$369,455,881	0.66%	0.52%
	New Hampshire	924	\$203,738,080	0.40%	0.28%
	New York	18,091	\$5,283,710,975	7.82%	7.38%
	Rhode Island	956	\$256,095,019	0.41%	0.36%
	Vermont	651	\$99,390,440	0.28%	0.14%
<b>Regional Totals</b>		29,092	\$8,131,449,116	12.57%	11.35%
<b>SERO</b>	Alabama	4,419	\$1,476,649,223	1.91%	2.06%
	Florida	14,507	\$5,155,681,684	6.27%	7.20%
	Georgia	9,196	\$2,905,170,658	3.97%	4.06%
	Kentucky	4,229	\$1,277,800,045	1.83%	1.78%
	Mississippi	3,108	\$954,410,714	1.34%	1.33%
	North Carolina	7,667	\$2,340,815,651	3.31%	3.27%
	South Carolina	4,605	\$1,349,797,399	1.99%	1.88%
	Tennessee	6,149	\$2,008,918,561	2.66%	2.81%
	<b>Regional Totals</b>	53,880	\$17,469,243,935	23.28%	24.39%
<b>SWRO</b>	Arkansas	2,340	\$732,203,121	1.01%	1.02%
	Louisiana	4,361	\$1,391,840,305	1.88%	1.94%
	New Mexico	1,373	\$620,665,920	0.59%	0.87%
	Oklahoma	3,234	\$926,626,383	1.40%	1.29%
	Texas	16,384	\$6,046,203,833	7.08%	8.44%
<b>Regional Totals</b>		27,692	\$9,717,539,562	11.97%	13.57%
<b>WRO</b>	Alaska	509	\$176,432,391	0.22%	0.25%
	Arizona	3,813	\$1,638,606,585	1.65%	2.29%
	California	23,814	\$6,523,981,415	10.29%	9.11%
	Guam	241	\$105,175,700	0.10%	0.15%
	Hawaii	960	\$409,587,992	0.41%	0.57%
	Idaho	854	\$355,047,954	0.37%	0.50%
	Nevada	1,578	\$513,086,822	0.68%	0.72%
	Oregon	3,214	\$1,146,482,902	1.39%	1.60%
	Washington	4,643	\$1,593,484,713	2.01%	2.23%
<b>Regional Totals</b>		39,626	\$12,461,886,475	17.12%	17.40%
<b>NATIONAL TOTALS:</b>		<b>231,435</b>	<b>\$71,614,261,830</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Source: STARS Management Activity Report 12/19/11

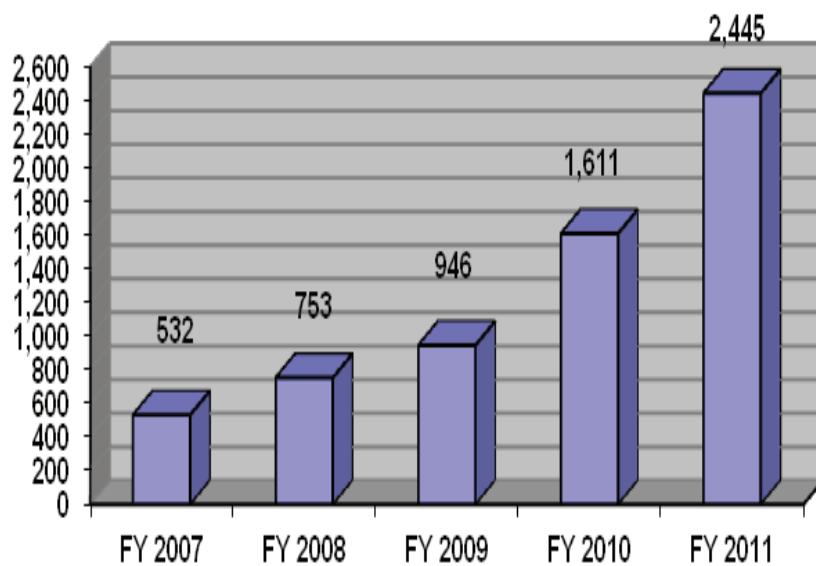
## Administrative Activity

Store authorization and administration includes, but is not limited to authorizing, reinstating, reauthorizing and withdrawing firms. In fiscal year 2011, there were a total of 35,586 stores authorized or reinstated, 36,820 reauthorized, and 19,085 withdrawn.

<b>Administrative Actions by Region</b>	<b>MARO</b>	<b>MPRO</b>	<b>MWRO</b>	<b>NERO</b>	<b>SERO</b>	<b>SWRO</b>	<b>WRO</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Authorizations:</b>	4,223	1,866	5,008	4,608	10,357	3,876	5,648	<b>35,586</b>
Initial Authorization	4,022	1,725	4,823	4,341	9,896	3,697	5,207	33,711
Reinstatement	201	141	185	267	461	179	441	1,875
<b>Reauthorizations (i.e. Reassessment of Eligibility):</b>	5,498	5,221	7,365	4,722	7,538	2,783	3,693	<b>36,820</b>
<b>Time-Limited Term SNAP Participation Denials:</b>	136	261	295	36	196	142	209	1,275
Determined Not to be a Retail Food Store	31	10	27	5	36	2	62	173
Failed to Cooperate with Information Request	2	7	1	0	7	0	0	17
Failed to Pay Assessed Monetary Penalty	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Did Not Meet SNAP Eligibility Criteria	96	221	263	31	138	136	113	998
Denied for Business Integrity Breach	1	2	0	0	12	0	1	16
Other	6	21	4	0	1	4	33	69
<b>Firms Denied Permanently for Lack of Business Integrity:</b>	0	1	4	0	7	1	0	13
<b>Firms Withdrawn:</b>	2,362	997	2,747	2,846	5,080	2,043	3,010	<b>19,085</b>
Permanently Withdrawn for Lack of Business Integrity	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	4
Time Limited Withdrawal for Business Integrity Breach	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
Failed to Cooperate With Information Request	1	0	2	10	5	0	2	20
No SNAP Transaction Activity	655	295	847	905	1,711	638	972	6,023
Determined Not to be a Retail Food Store	2	4	2	0	2	0	10	20
Determined Not to Meet Eligibility Criteria	10	4	39	12	49	25	50	189
No State Contract - Applies to State Restaurant Program	13	0	15	7	6	7	46	94
Non-response to Reauthorization	113	33	105	193	239	100	178	961
Withdrawal for Other Reasons	6	23	22	17	4	5	73	150
Voluntarily Withdrawn	1,562	638	1,708	1,702	3,064	1,266	1,679	11,619

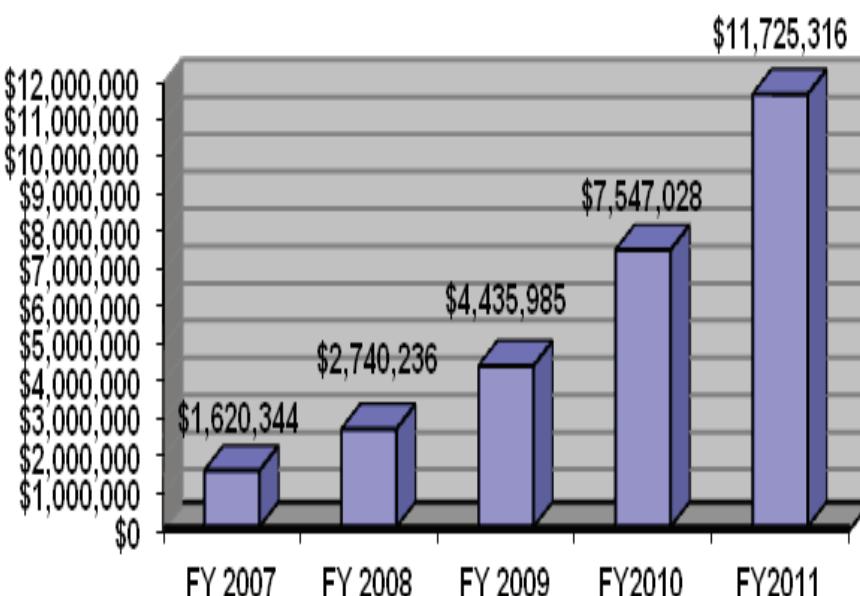
## FISCAL YEAR 2011 FARMERS' MARKETS AND DIRECT MARKETING FARMERS

### Number of SNAP Authorized Farmers' Markets



- Over the past five fiscal years, the number of farmers' markets and direct marketing farmers increased 360%.
- Thirty percent are open year-round.
- Fifty-one percent of all markets/farmers authorized are found in ten states: Iowa (214), New York (210), Michigan (151), California (148), Mississippi (95), Massachusetts (91), Oregon (90), Ohio (83), Pennsylvania (83), and Missouri (77).

### Value of Farmers' Market SNAP Redemptions



- Over the past five fiscal years, farmers' market redemptions have increased 624%.
- In fiscal year 2011, program recipients made 675,577 purchases at farmers' markets and direct marketing farmers nationwide. The average purchase amount was \$17.50.

Source: Data was obtained from the Store Tracking and Redemption System and the Anti-fraud Locator using EBT Retailer Transactions System.

## Key Facts about SNAP Farmers' Market Participation

- In fiscal year 2011, more SNAP benefits were redeemed at farmers' markets and direct marketing farmers during September than any other month of the year.
- Of the 3,232 counties in the United States, 986 (31%) have at least one SNAP authorized farmers' market or farmer.
- 237,304 SNAP households made at least one purchase at a farmers' market in fiscal year 2011. Households shopping at farmers' markets spent \$49.81 on average over the course of the year.
- The top five busiest counties based on the number of SNAP households shopping at farmers' markets or direct marketing farmers are shown below:

**Busiest Farmer's Market Counties for SNAP**

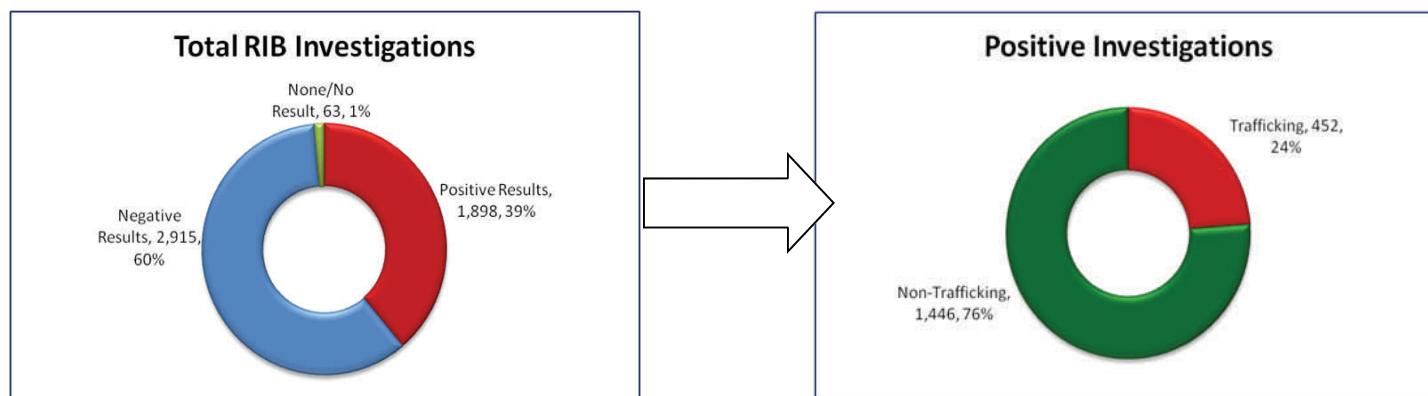
County/State	Number of SNAP Households Shopping
New York, NY	19,971
St. Louis, MO	14,122
Wayne, MI	11,138
Monroe, NY	5,234
Genesee, MI	5,147

- Fifty-two percent of the 237,304 SNAP households that shopped at a farmers' market or direct marketing farmer made one purchase; another 18% made two purchases; and 30% made three or more purchases within the year.
- Ninety-nine percent of all SNAP transactions at a market or direct marketing farmer were electronic (either swipe or key entry), and the remaining 1% were paper voucher authorizations.

## Undercover Retailer Investigations

OIG has responsibility for all investigative activity within USDA. However, authority to conduct SNAP retailer compliance investigations was delegated to FNS. In January 1977, the Retailer Investigations Branch (RIB) was established. Its primary mission is to safeguard the integrity of SNAP retailer redemptions. Historically, this is accomplished by a nationwide staff that conduct undercover investigations of SNAP approved retailers.

RIB investigations are conducted throughout the year. A positive investigation is one in which the investigation reveals evidence of any program violations. In fiscal year 2011, there were a total of 4,876 investigations completed, of which 1,898 resulted in a positive investigation. Positive investigations are further grouped by whether there were trafficking actions involved. Trafficking is the exchange of SNAP benefits for cash or consideration other than eligible food, and is the most serious program violation. In fiscal year 2011, there were 452 investigations in which trafficking occurred.



**RIB Investigations Fiscal Year 2011**

<b>Completed Investigations:</b>	<b>MARO</b>	<b>MPRO</b>	<b>MWRO</b>	<b>NERO</b>	<b>SERO</b>	<b>SWRO</b>	<b>WRO</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Pct. of Total</b>
Positive Results	242	85	217	238	400	299	417	1,898	38.93%
Trafficking	64	12	61	75	63	56	121	452	
Non-Trafficking	178	73	156	163	337	243	296	1,446	
Negative Results	348	152	577	502	552	225	559	2,915	59.78%
None/No Results	14	6	3	9	16	8	7	63	1.29%
<b>Total Completed</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>4,876</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Source: STARS Management Activity Report 12/20/11

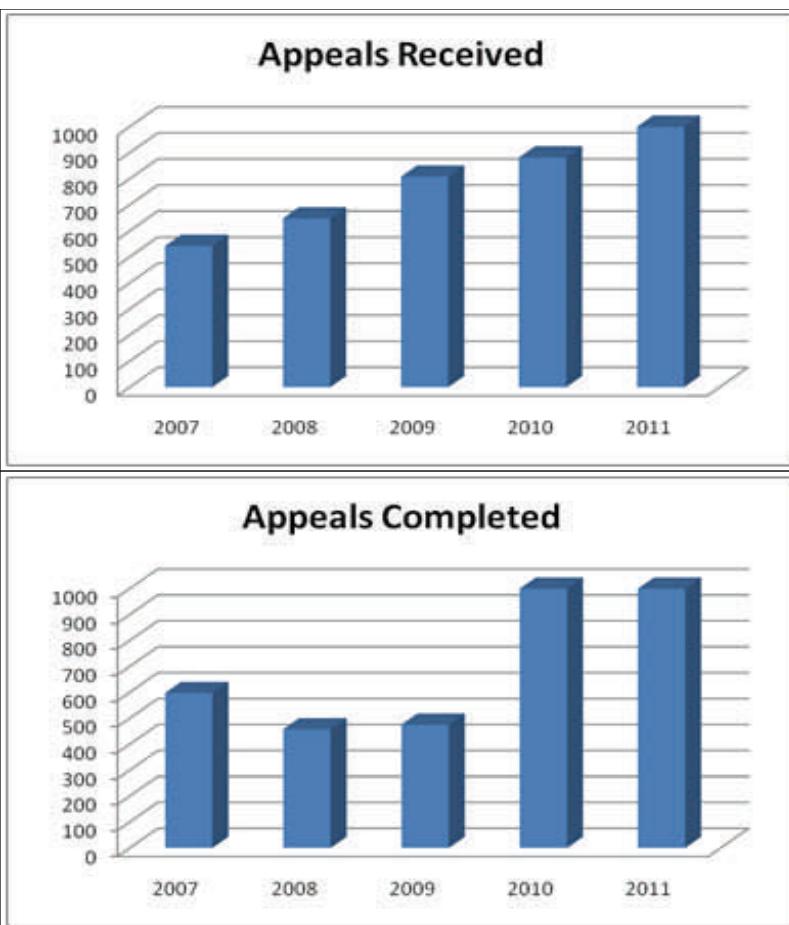
## Administrative Review

The Administrative Review Branch (ARB) performs the final administrative review of retailer appeals within USDA.

- The vast majority of administrative reviews are for retail and wholesale firms aggrieved by action of FNS to deny, withdraw, or disqualify them from SNAP participation. In addition, ARB performs administrative reviews for sponsors and vendors aggrieved in the Summer Food Service Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program, as well as for State agencies aggrieved by FNS actions such as Quality Control sanctions and other sanctions due to non-compliance with SNAP regulations or State Plans of Operations.
- ARB's mission is to ensure that firms, institutions, and State Agencies aggrieved by FNS' adverse actions receive the opportunity to have their positions fairly considered by an impartial reviewing authority prior to the adverse action becoming final.
- Administrative Review Officers (AROs) are designated by the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct administrative reviews and issue final agency decisions. They have the authority to reverse or otherwise alter any adverse decision found to be in error or which may be inconsistent with FNS policy. An ARO's decision is the final administrative action of the USDA, subject only to judicial review.

### 2011 ARB cases at a glance:

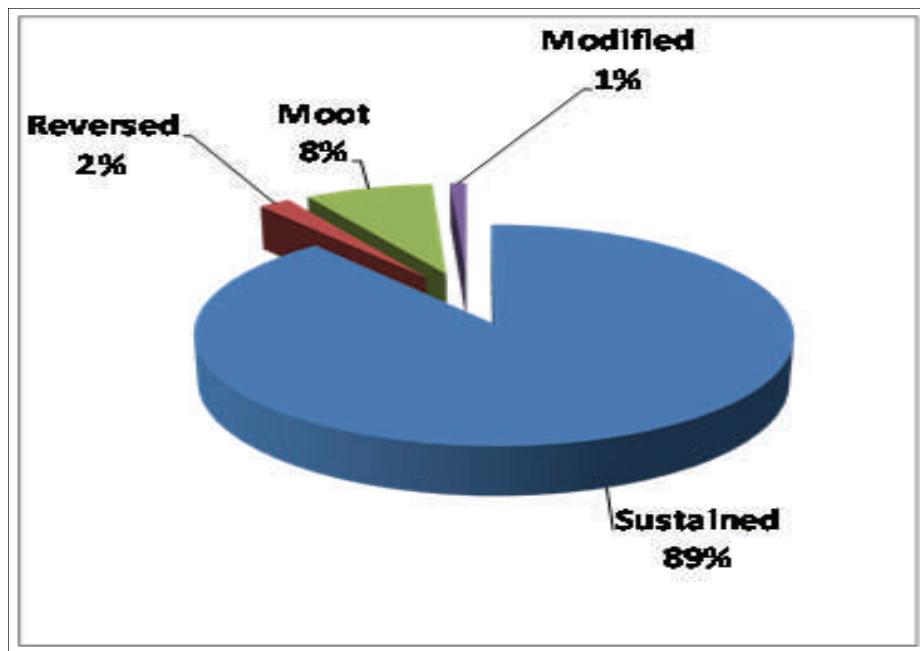
- 903 Sustained
- 19 Reversed
- 76 Moot
- 13 Modified



Source: STARS Management Activity Report 12/20/11

## Administrative Review (continued)

FY 2011 Administrative Review Branch Final Decisions



Source: STARS Management Activity Report 12/20/11

- ARB saw an increase in the number of administrative review requests from 813 in fiscal year 2010 to 979 in fiscal year 2011. This increase is likely linked to the increase in the number of retail stores on the Program as well as various integrity efforts initiated by FNS.
- ARB strives to expedite decisions. By moving quickly, there is a positive impact on integrity:
  - Stores whose actions are held in abeyance pending final agency decision do not stay on the Program for long periods of time after the determination is made by FNS field staff.
  - Stores who are removed pending final agency decision have their appeals heard quickly. If the decision is reversed, the amount of time they are off the Program is minimized.
  - Collections for civil money penalties can begin earlier in the process, making it more likely that retailers can be located.
- As in past years, the majority of FNS initial determinations were upheld. Eighty-nine percent of cases were upheld in fiscal year 2011, an increase of 2% over fiscal year 2010.

## Compliance Activity

FNS closely monitors retailers to ensure they comply with Program rules and regulations. FNS may sanction or warn retailers found violating Program rules. Sanctions include permanent or time-limited term disqualifications and civil money penalties. Retailers who commit minor violations are issued official warning letters. Retailers who are disqualified permanently and sell their stores are subject to a transfer of ownership civil money penalty. In fiscal year 2011, there were 2,935 total compliance actions, including 1,981 sanctions (1,215 of them permanent disqualifications), 794 official warnings, and 157 transfer of ownership civil money penalties.

	Compliance Activity by Region								
	MARO	MPRO	MWRO	NERO	SERO	SWRO	WRO	Total	
<b>Sanctions</b>	385	72	311	360	374	167	312	<b>1,981</b>	
Permanent Disqualification	307	29	224	203	170	86	196	1,215	
Time-Limited Term Disqualification	60	37	67	143	151	62	95	615	
Trafficking Civil Money Penalty (CMP)	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	4	
Hardship CMP	16	6	19	14	52	19	21	147	
<b>Other Compliance Actions</b>	84	62	143	147	224	160	134	<b>954</b>	
Transfer of Ownership CMP	11	4	23	71	7	9	32	157	
Official Warning	72	57	120	76	217	150	102	794	
Fine for Unauthorized SNAP Benefit Acceptance	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	
<b>Total</b>	469	134	454	507	598	327	446	<b>2,935</b>	

Source: STARS Management Activity Report 12/20/11

### Key Fact:

In fiscal year 2011, FNS staff reviewed over 15,000 stores to determine whether violations were occurring.

## Sanctions In Fiscal Year 2011 by State

State	Time-Limited Term Disqualifications	Permanent Disqualifications	Hardship Civil Money Penalty In Lieu of Time-Limited Term Disqualification	Trafficking Civil Money Penalty In Lieu of Permanent Disqualification	Total
AK	0	1	0	0	1
AL	3	17	1	1	22
AR	0	4	0	0	4
AZ	5	9	1	0	15
CA	70	138	9	0	217
CO	10	2	2	0	14
CT	10	21	0	0	31
DC	1	3	0	0	4
DE	1	9	2	0	12
FL	59	43	8	0	110
GA	41	45	17	0	103
GU	2	7	0	0	9
HI	3	5	2	0	10
IA	2	4	0	0	6
IL	21	86	6	0	113
IN	6	18	1	0	25
KS	1	2	0	0	3
KY	3	16	6	0	25
LA	11	16	3	0	30
MA	36	16	1	0	53
MD	8	10	3	0	21
MI	18	66	7	0	91
MN	4	7	2	0	13
MO	17	10	1	0	28
MS	10	11	4	0	25
NC	7	11	4	0	22
NE	3	1	1	0	5
NH	2	1	1	0	4
NJ	30	101	3	0	134
NM	2	6	3	0	11
NV	4	12	0	0	16
NY	85	156	8	0	249
OH	7	30	2	0	39
OK	9	6	2	0	17
OR	3	3	1	0	7
PA	16	172	4	0	192
RI	10	9	4	0	23
SC	4	8	4	0	16
SD	0	0	1	0	1
TN	24	19	8	0	51
TX	40	54	11	0	105
UT	4	10	1	0	15
VA	2	11	2	2	17
WA	8	21	8	0	37
WI	11	17	1	1	30
WV	2	1	2	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1,981</b>

Source: STARS Mgmt Activity Report 12/20/11

## **Benefit Redemption Division**

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